110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 1469

To establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 12, 2007

Mr. Lantos (for himself and Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon
- 5 Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress makes the following findings:
- 8 (1) According to President George W. Bush,
- 9 "America's leadership and national security rest on
- our commitment to educate and prepare our youth

- for active engagement in the international community.".
- (2) According to former President William J.

 Clinton, "Today, the defense of United States interests, the effective management of global issues, and

 even an understanding of our Nation's diversity require ever-greater contact with, and understanding

 of, people and cultures beyond our borders.".
 - (3) Congress authorized the establishment of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program pursuant to section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199). Pursuant to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission has submitted to Congress and the President a report of its recommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity for students at institutions of higher education in the United States to study abroad, with special emphasis on studying in developing nations.
 - (4) According to the Lincoln Commission, "[s]tudy abroad is one of the major means of producing foreign language speakers and enhancing foreign language learning" and, for that reason, "is simply essential to the [N]ation's security".

- 1 (5) Studies consistently show that United 2 States students score below their counterparts in 3 other advanced countries on indicators of inter-4 national knowledge. This lack of global literacy is a 5 national liability in an age of global trade and busi-6 ness, global interdependence, and global terror.
 - (6) Americans believe that it is important for their children to learn other languages, study abroad, attend a college where they can interact with international students, learn about other countries and cultures, and generally be prepared for the global age.
 - (7) In today's world, it is more important than ever for the United States to be a responsible, constructive leader that other countries are willing to follow. Such leadership cannot be sustained without an informed citizenry with significant knowledge and awareness of the world.
 - (8) Study abroad has proven to be a very effective means of imparting international and foreign-language competency to students.
 - (9) In any given year, only approximately one percent of all students enrolled in United States institutions of higher education study abroad.

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- (10) Less than 10 percent of the students who graduate from United States institutions of higher education with bachelors degrees have studied abroad.
 - (11) Far more study abroad must take place in developing countries. Ninety-five percent of the world's population growth over the next 50 years will occur outside of Europe. Yet in the academic year 2004–2005, 60 percent of United States students studying abroad studied in Europe, and 45 percent studied in four countries—the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and France—according to the Institute of International Education.
 - (12) The Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (The 9/11 Commission Report) recommended that the United States increase support for "scholarship, exchange, and library programs". The 9/11 Public Discourse Project, successor to the 9/11 Commission, noted in its November 14, 2005, status report that this recommendation was "unfulfilled," and stated that "The U.S. should increase support for scholarship and exchange programs, our most powerful tool to shape attitudes over the course of a generation.". In its December 5, 2005, Final Report on

- 1 the 9/11 Commission Recommendations, the 9/11
- 2 Public Discourse Project gave the government a
- grade of "D" for its implementation of this rec-
- 4 ommendation.
- 5 (13) Investing in a national study abroad pro-
- 6 gram would help turn a grade of "D" into an "A"
- 7 by equipping United States students to communicate
- 8 United States values and way of life through the
- 9 unique dialogue that takes place among citizens
- from around the world when individuals study
- abroad.
- 12 (14) An enhanced national study abroad pro-
- gram could help further the goals of other United
- 14 States Government initiatives to promote edu-
- 15 cational, social, and political reform and the status
- of women in developing and reforming societies
- around the world, such as the Middle East Partner-
- ship Initiative.

19 SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

- The purposes of this Act are—
- 21 (1) to significantly enhance the global competi-
- tiveness and international knowledge base of the
- United States by ensuring that more United States
- students have the opportunity to acquire foreign lan-

- guage skills and international knowledge through
 significantly expanded study abroad;
- 3 (2) to enhance the foreign policy capacity of the 4 United States by significantly expanding and diversi-5 fying the talent pool of individuals with non-tradi-6 tional foreign language skills and cultural knowledge 7 in the United States who are available for recruit-8 ment by United States foreign affairs agencies, leg-9 islative branch agencies, and nongovernmental orga-10 nizations involved in foreign affairs activities;
 - (3) to ensure that an increasing portion of study abroad by United States students will take place in nontraditional study abroad destinations such as the People's Republic of China, countries of the Middle East region, and developing countries; and
 - (4) to create greater cultural understanding of the United States by exposing foreign students and their families to United States students in countries that have not traditionally hosted large numbers of United States students.
- 22 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.
- 23 In this Act:

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1	(1) Appropriate congressional commit-
2	TEES.—The term "appropriate congressional com-
3	mittees" means—
4	(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5	the Committee on Appropriations of the House
6	of Representatives; and
7	(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8	and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9	Senate.
10	(2) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the
11	Board of Directors of the Foundation established
12	pursuant to section 5(d).
13	(3) Chief executive officer.—The term
14	"Chief Executive Officer" means the chief executive
15	officer of the Foundation appointed pursuant to sec-
16	tion $5(c)$.
17	(4) FOUNDATION.—The term "Foundation"
18	means the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foun-
19	dation established by section 5(a).
20	(5) Institution of Higher Education.—The
21	term "institution of higher education" has the
22	meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
23	Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).
24	(6) Nontraditional study abroad destina-
25	TION.—The term "nontraditional study abroad des-

- tination" means a location that is determined by the
 Foundation to be a less common destination for
 United States students who study abroad.
 - (7) STUDY ABROAD.—The term "study abroad" means an educational program of study, work, research, internship, or combination thereof that is conducted outside the United States and that carries academic credit toward fulfilling the participating student's degree requirements.
- 10 (8) UNITED STATES.—The term "United States" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any other territory or possession of the United States.
- 16 (9) UNITED STATES STUDENT.—The term
 17 "United States student" means a national of the
 18 United States who is enrolled at an institution of
 19 higher education located within the United States.
- 20 SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SEN-
- 21 ATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD FOUNDA-
- 22 **TION.**

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- 23 (a) Establishment.—
- 24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the executive branch a corporation to be known as the

- "Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation"
 that shall be responsible for carrying out this Act
 under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and
 Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et
 seq.). The Foundation shall be a government corporation, as defined in section 103 of title 5, United
 States Code.
 - (2) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Foundation shall be governed by a Board of Directors chaired by the Secretary of State (or the Secretary's designee) in accordance with subsection (d).
 - (3) Intent of congress.—It is the intent of Congress in establishing the structure of the Foundation set forth in this subsection to create an entity that will administer a study abroad program that—
- 16 (A) serves the long-term foreign policy and 17 national security needs of the United States; 18 but
- (B) operates independently of short-termpolitical and foreign policy considerations.
- 21 (b) Mandate of Foundation.—In administering 22 the program referred to in subsection (a)(3), the Founda-23 tion shall—
- 24 (1) promote the objectives and purposes of this 25 Act;

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- 1 (2) through responsive, flexible grant-making, 2 promote access to study abroad opportunities by 3 United States students at diverse institutions of 4 higher education, including two-year institutions, mi-5 nority-serving institutions, and institutions that 6 serve nontraditional students;
 - (3) through creative grant-making, promote access to study abroad opportunities by diverse United States students, including minority students, students of limited financial means, and nontraditional students;
 - (4) raise funds from the private sector to supplement funds made available under this Act; and
 - (5) be committed to minimizing administrative costs and to maximizing the availability of funds for grants under this Act.

(c) Chief Executive Officer.—

- (1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Foundation a Chief Executive Officer who shall be responsible for the management of the Foundation.
- (2) APPOINTMENT.—The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed by the Board and shall be a recognized leader in higher education, business, or foreign policy, chosen on the basis of a rigorous search.

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1	(3) Relationship to Board.—The Chief Ex-
2	ecutive Officer shall report to and be under the di-
3	rect authority of the Board.
4	(4) Compensation and rank.—
5	(A) In General.—The Chief Executive
6	Officer shall be compensated at the rate pro-
7	vided for level III of the Executive Schedule
8	under section 5314 of title 5, United States
9	Code.
10	(B) Amendment.—Section 5314 of title
11	5, United States Code, is amended by adding at
12	the end the following:
13	"Chief Executive Officer, Senator Paul Simon
14	Study Abroad Foundation.".
15	(5) Authorities and duties.—The Chief Ex-
16	ecutive Officer shall be responsible for the manage-
17	ment of the Foundation and shall exercise the pow-
18	ers and discharge the duties of the Foundation.
19	(6) Authority to appoint officers.—In
20	consultation and with approval of the Board, the
21	Chief Executive Officer shall appoint all officers of
22	the Foundation.
23	(d) Board of Directors.—
24	(1) Establishment.—There shall be in the
25	Foundation a Board of Directors.

- 1 (2) Duties.—The Board shall perform the 2 functions specified to be carried out by the Board in 3 this Act and may prescribe, amend, and repeal by-4 laws, rules, regulations, and procedures governing 5 the manner in which the business of the Foundation 6 may be conducted and in which the powers granted 7 to it by law may be exercised.
 - (3) Membership.—The Board shall consist of—
 - (A) the Secretary of State (or the Secretary's designee), the Secretary of Education (or the Secretary's designee), the Secretary of Defense (or the Secretary's designee), and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (or the Administrator's designee); and
 - (B) five other individuals with relevant experience in matters relating to study abroad (such as individuals who represent institutions of higher education, business organizations, foreign policy organizations, or other relevant organizations) who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of which—

1	(i) one individual shall be appointed
2	from among a list of individuals submitted
3	by the majority leader of the House of
4	Representatives;
5	(ii) one individual shall be appointed
6	from among a list of individuals submitted
7	by the minority leader of the House of
8	Representatives;
9	(iii) one individual shall be appointed
10	from among a list of individuals submitted
11	by the majority leader of the Senate; and
12	(iv) one individual shall be appointed
13	from among a list of individuals submitted
14	by the minority leader of the Senate.
15	(4) Chief executive officer.—The Chief
16	Executive Officer of the Foundation shall serve as a
17	nonvoting, ex officio member of the Board.
18	(5) Terms.—
19	(A) Officers of the federal govern-
20	MENT.—Each member of the Board described
21	in paragraph (3)(A) shall serve for a term that
22	is concurrent with the term of service of the in-
23	dividual's position as an officer within the other
24	Federal department or agency.

1	(B) Other members.—Each member of
2	the Board described in paragraph (3)(B) shall
3	be appointed for a term of 3 years and may be
4	reappointed for a term of an additional 3 years.
5	(C) Vacancies.—A vacancy in the Board
6	shall be filled in the manner in which the origi-
7	nal appointment was made.
8	(6) Chairperson.—There shall be a Chair-
9	person of the Board. The Secretary of State (or the
10	Secretary's designee) shall serve as the Chairperson.
11	(7) Quorum.—A majority of the members of
12	the Board described in paragraph (3) shall con-
13	stitute a quorum, which, except with respect to a
14	meeting of the Board during the 135-day period be-
15	ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
16	shall include at least one member of the Board de-
17	scribed in paragraph (3)(B).
18	(8) Meetings.—The Board shall meet at the
19	call of the Chairperson.
20	(9) Compensation.—
21	(A) Officers of the federal govern-
22	MENT.—
23	(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
24	Board described in paragraph (3)(A) may
25	not receive additional pay, allowances, or

1	benefits by reason of the member's service
2	on the Board.
3	(ii) Travel expenses.—Each such
4	member of the Board shall receive travel
5	expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-
6	sistence, in accordance with applicable pro-
7	visions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of
8	title 5, United States Code.
9	(B) Other members.—
10	(i) In general.—Except as provided
11	in clause (ii), a member of the Board de-
12	scribed in paragraph (3)(B)—
13	(I) shall be paid compensation
14	out of funds made available for the
15	purposes of this Act at the daily
16	equivalent of the highest rate payable
17	under section 5332 of title 5, United
18	States Code, for each day (including
19	travel time) during which the member
20	is engaged in the actual performance
21	of duties as a member of the Board;
22	and
23	(II) while away from the mem-
24	ber's home or regular place of busi-
25	ness on necessary travel in the actual

1	performance of duties as a member of
2	the Board, shall be paid per diem,
3	travel, and transportation expenses in
4	the same manner as is provided under
5	subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
6	United States Code.
7	(ii) Limitation.—A member of the
8	Board may not be paid compensation
9	under clause (i)(II) for more than 90 days
10	in any calendar year.
11	SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PROGRAM.
12	(a) Establishment of the Program.—There is
13	hereby established a program, which shall—
14	(1) be administered by the Foundation; and
15	(2) award grants to—
16	(A) United States students for study
17	abroad;
18	(B) nongovernmental institutions that pro-
19	vide and promote study abroad opportunities
20	for United States students, in consortium with
21	institutions described in subparagraph (C); and
22	(C) institutions of higher education, indi-
23	vidually or in consortium,
24	in order to accomplish the objectives set forth in
25	subsection (b).

- 1 (b) Objectives.—The objectives of the program es-
- 2 tablished under subsection (a) are that, within 10 years
- 3 of the date of the enactment of this Act—
- 4 (1) not less than one million undergraduate
- 5 United States students will study abroad annually
- 6 for credit;
- 7 (2) the demographics of study-abroad participa-
- 8 tion will reflect the demographics of the United
- 9 States undergraduate population, including students
- enrolled in community colleges, minority-serving in-
- stitutions, and institutions serving large numbers of
- low-income and first-generation students; and
- 13 (3) an increasing portion of study abroad will
- take place in nontraditional study abroad destina-
- tions, with a substantial portion of such increases
- taking place in developing countries.
- 17 (c) Mandate of the Program.—In order to ac-
- 18 complish the objectives set forth in subsection (b), the
- 19 Foundation shall, in administering the program estab-
- 20 lished under subsection (a), take fully into account the rec-
- 21 ommendations of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln
- 22 Study Abroad Fellowship Program (established pursuant
- 23 to section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and
- 24 Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199)).

- 1 (d) STRUCTURE OF GRANTS.—In accordance with
- 2 the recommendations of the Commission on the Abraham
- 3 Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, grants award-
- 4 ed under the program established under subsection (a)
- 5 shall be structured to the maximum extent practicable to
- 6 promote appropriate reforms in institutions of higher edu-
- 7 cation in order to remove barriers to participation by stu-
- 8 dents in study abroad.
- 9 (e) Balance of Long-Term and Short-Term
- 10 Study Abroad Programs.—In administering the pro-
- 11 gram established under subsection (a), the Foundation
- 12 shall seek an appropriate balance between—
- 13 (1) longer-term study abroad programs, which
- maximize foreign-language learning and intercultural
- understanding; and
- 16 (2) shorter-term study abroad programs, which
- maximize the accessibility of study abroad to non-
- 18 traditional students.
- 19 SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT.
- 20 (a) Report Required.—Not later than March 31,
- 21 2008, and each March 31 thereafter, the Foundation shall
- 22 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
- 23 port on the implementation of this Act during the prior
- 24 fiscal year.

- 1 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection 2 (a) shall include—
- 1) the total financial resources available to the Foundation during the year, including appropriated funds, the value and source of any gifts or donations accepted pursuant to section 8(a)(6), and any other resources;
 - (2) a description of the Board's policy priorities for the year and the bases upon which competitive grant proposals were solicited and awarded to institutions of higher education, nongovernmental institutions, and consortiums pursuant to section 6(a)(2)(B) and 6(a)(2)(C);
 - (3) a list of grants made to institutions of higher education, nongovernmental institutions, and consortiums pursuant to section 6(a)(2)(B) and 6(a)(2)(C) that includes the identity of the institutional recipient, the dollar amount, and the estimated number of study abroad opportunities provided to United States students by each grant;
 - (4) a description of the bases upon which the Foundation made grants directly to United States students pursuant to section 6(a)(2)(A);

1	(5) the number and total dollar amount of
2	grants made directly to United States students by
3	the Foundation pursuant to section 6(a)(2)(A); and
4	(6) the total administrative and operating ex-
5	penses of the Foundation for the year, as well as
6	specific information on—
7	(A) the number of Foundation employees
8	and the cost of compensation for Board mem-
9	bers, Foundation employees, and personal serv-
10	ice contractors;
11	(B) costs associated with securing the use
12	of real property for carrying out the functions
13	of the Foundation;
14	(C) total travel expenses incurred by Board
15	members and Foundation employees in connec-
16	tion with Foundation activities; and
17	(D) total representational expenses.
18	SEC. 8. POWERS OF THE FOUNDATION; RELATED PROVI-
19	SIONS.
20	(a) Powers.—The Foundation—
21	(1) shall have perpetual succession unless dis-
22	solved by a law enacted after the date of the enact-
23	ment of this Act;
24	(2) may adopt, alter, and use a seal, which shall
25	be judicially noticed;

- 1 (3) may make and perform such contracts, 2 grants, and other agreements with any person or 3 government however designated and wherever situ-4 ated, as may be necessary for carrying out the func-5 tions of the Foundation;
 - (4) may determine and prescribe the manner in which its obligations shall be incurred and its expenses allowed and paid, including expenses for representation;
 - (5) may lease, purchase, or otherwise acquire, improve, and use such real property wherever situated, as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Foundation;
 - (6) may accept cash gifts or donations of services or of property (real, personal, or mixed), tangible or intangible, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act;
 - (7) may use the United States mails in the same manner and on the same conditions as the executive departments;
 - (8) may contract with individuals for personal services, who shall not be considered Federal employees for any provision of law administered by the Office of Personnel Management;

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1	(9) may hire or obtain passenger motor vehi-
2	cles; and
3	(10) shall have such other powers as may be
4	necessary and incident to carrying out this Act.
5	(b) Principal Office.—The Foundation shall
6	maintain its principal office in the metropolitan area of
7	Washington, District of Columbia.
8	(e) Applicability of Government Corporation
9	CONTROL ACT.—
10	(1) In General.—The Foundation shall be
11	subject to chapter 91 of subtitle VI of title 31,
12	United States Code, except that the Foundation
13	shall not be authorized to issue obligations or offer
14	obligations to the public.
15	(2) Conforming amendment.—Section
16	9101(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended
17	by adding at the end the following:
18	"(R) the Senator Paul Simon Study
19	Abroad Foundation.".
20	(d) Inspector General.—
21	(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of
22	the Department of State shall serve as Inspector
23	General of the Foundation, and, in acting in such
24	capacity, may conduct reviews, investigations, and

- 1 inspections of all aspects of the operations and ac-2 tivities of the Foundation.
 - (2) Authority of the Board.—In carrying out the responsibilities under this subsection, the Inspector General shall report to and be under the general supervision of the Board.
 - (3) Reimbursement and authorization of services.—
 - (A) Reimbursement.—The Foundation shall reimburse the Department of State for all expenses incurred by the Inspector General in connection with the Inspector General's responsibilities under this subsection.
 - (B) AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICES.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated under section 10(a) for a fiscal year, up to \$2,000,000 is authorized to be made available to the Inspector General of the Department of State to conduct reviews, investigations, and inspections of operations and activities of the Foundation.

22 SEC. 9. GENERAL PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.

23 (a) DETAIL OF PERSONNEL.—Upon request of the 24 Chief Executive Officer, the head of an agency may detail 25 any employee of such agency to the Foundation on a reim-

- bursable basis. Any employee so detailed remains, for the
- purpose of preserving such employee's allowances, privi-
- leges, rights, seniority, and other benefits, an employee of
- 4 the agency from which detailed.

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(b) REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.—

- 6 (1) In General.—An employee of an agency 7 who is serving under a career or career conditional 8 appointment (or the equivalent), and who, with the 9 consent of the head of such agency, transfers to the 10 Foundation, is entitled to be reemployed in such employee's former position or a position of like senior-12 ity, status, and pay in such agency, if such em-13 ployee—
 - (A) is separated from the Foundation for any reason, other than misconduct, neglect of duty, or malfeasance; and
 - (B) applies for reemployment not later than 90 days after the date of separation from the Foundation.
 - (2) Specific rights.—An employee who satisfies paragraph (1) is entitled to be reemployed (in accordance with such paragraph) within 30 days after applying for reemployment and, on reemployment, is entitled to at least the rate of basic pay to

- 1 which such employee would have been entitled had
- 2 such employee never transferred.
- 3 (c) Hiring Authority.—Of persons employed by
- 4 the Foundation, not to exceed 30 persons may be ap-
- 5 pointed, compensated, or removed without regard to the
- 6 civil service laws and regulations.
- 7 (d) Basic Pay.—The Chief Executive Officer may fix
- 8 the rate of basic pay of employees of the Foundation with-
- 9 out regard to the provisions of chapter 51 of title 5,
- 10 United States Code (relating to the classification of posi-
- 11 tions), subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title (relating
- 12 to General Schedule pay rates), except that no employee
- 13 of the Foundation may receive a rate of basic pay that
- 14 exceeds the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule
- 15 under section 5315 of such title.
- 16 (e) Definitions.—In this section—
- 17 (1) the term "agency" means an executive
- agency, as defined by section 105 of title 5, United
- 19 States Code; and
- 20 (2) the term "detail" means the assignment or
- loan of an employee, without a change of position,
- from the agency by which such employee is employed
- to the Foundation.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There 3 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act 4 \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and each subsequent fis-
- 5 cal year.

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6 (b) Allocation of Funds.—

- 7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may allo-8 cate or transfer to any agency of the United States 9 Government any of the funds available for carrying 10 out this Act. Such funds shall be available for obli-11 gation and expenditure for the purposes for which 12 the funds were authorized, in accordance with au-13 thority granted in this Act or under authority gov-14 erning the activities of the United States Govern-15 ment agency to which such funds are allocated or 16 transferred.
 - (2) Notification.—The Foundation shall notify the appropriate congressional committees not less than 15 days prior to an allocation or transfer of funds pursuant to paragraph (1).

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